

How to

Make magic

Sharon Finmark and David Wickers



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Studio Vista

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Mr. B. Frank, Director of the Ryedale Folk Museum (Hutton-le-Hole, Yorks), the Haelan Centre (Crouch End, London), David Aldridge and Susan MacKay for their help in writing the book. Photographs on pages 54, 59 and 64 were taken at the Ryedale Folk Museum

Studio Vista, a division of
Cassell & Collier Macmillan Publishers Limited
35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG
Sydney, Auckland, Toronto, Johannesburg
an affiliate of Macmillan Inc., New York

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Filmset and printed by BAS Printers Limited, Wallop, Hampshire

First published in Great Britain in 1974

ISBN 0 289 70447 2

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Introduction

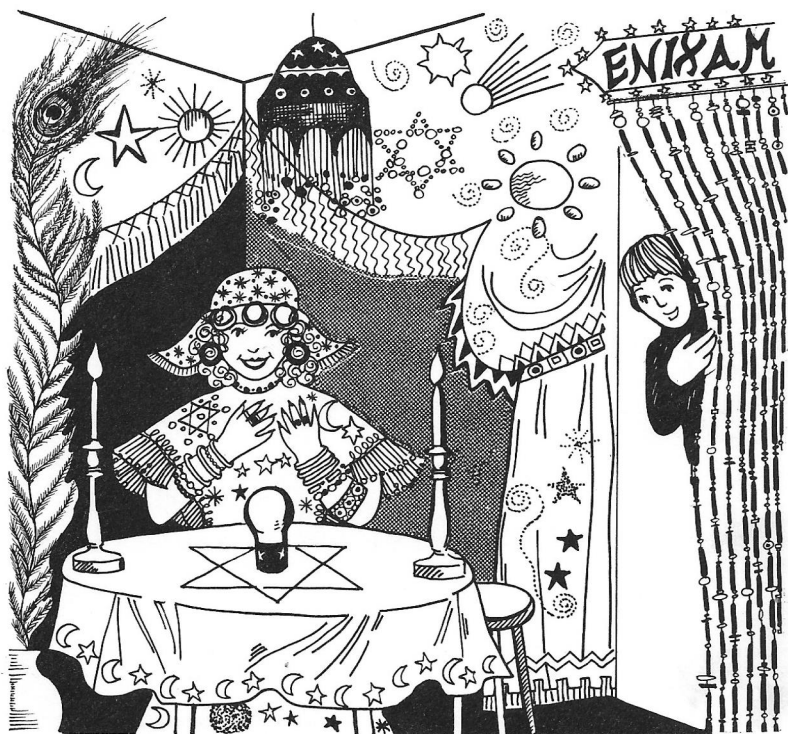
Magic is much more than hocus pocus and a quick wave of the wand. The conjuror who can produce white rabbits from a top hat and turn his cane into a bunch of roses is highly skilled. But even the most ordinary things have a little bit of magic in them if you keep your eyes open. You will find it in the bottom of a tea cup, for instance. Or perhaps in a stone you find lying on the beach.

Today, although man can travel to the moon, science cannot give us all the answers. We are still intrigued by a host of magical mysteries. Did you realise that lots of people believe in the power of magic charms? Or that even some of the most successful businessmen only make important decisions when their stars are in a favourable position? And then there is the sinister side of magic, the world of witches, messages from the spirits, those wicked spells and, of course, things that go bump in the night.

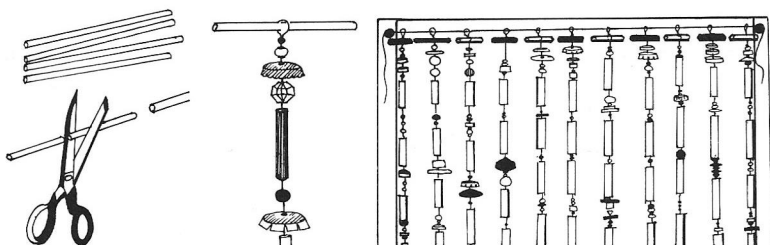
Do you believe in magic? Perhaps you are one of those rare people gifted with real magical powers, as well as having a few baffling tricks up your sleeve. Let's find out.

Cross my palm with silver

There is, unfortunately, no guarantee that you will become the greatest of fortune tellers. But a little mood making will definitely help to convince your friends. Part of the secret lies in looking like a fortune teller, putting on a bit of a show, and fully entering into the SPIRIT of things. Here are a few ways in which you could transform a corner of your room into a real 'Madame Zara's' den of mystery.

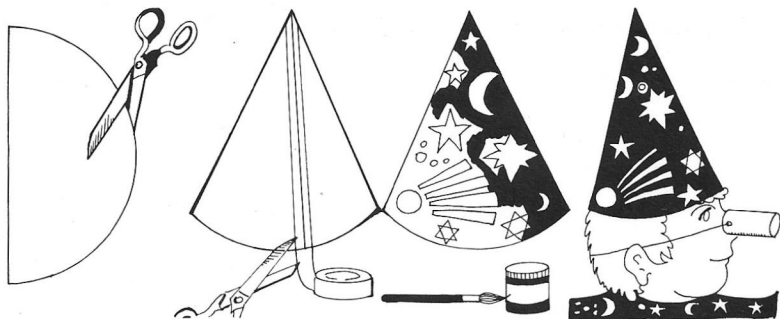


1 Bead curtains Cut some coloured drinking straws into short pieces. Cut several lengths of cotton long enough to reach from the top of your door to the ground. Tie one of the sections of straw to the end of the cotton and thread on the rest with some beads or milk bottle tops in between. When you have made about ten lengths, pin some string across the top of your door with thumb tacks. Tie on your 'curtain'.



2 Backdrop Ask your mother for any spare material – old dresses, curtains and so on – to hang up in one corner of the room. Rich, dark colours will look best. Cut out star, moon and sun shapes from tin foil and stick them onto the material. You might like to cut out your own name from tin foil and then reverse the letters before sticking them onto the material to add a magical touch. Sequins, glitter, fringes, feathers and many other odds and ends will also help. You could rig up some Christmas fairy lights for a fun fair effect. And how about burning some incense or joss sticks to capture the flavour of the mysterious East?

3 What to wear Lady Gipsies should fold an old scarf corner to corner to make a triangle and sew several gold curtain rings along the middle of the fold. Tie it round your head with the knot at the back. Make a large shawl out of old material. Paint your finger nails with luminous paint, and try to borrow as many charms, bracelets and other jewels as you can.



Wizards can make a hat from a large semi-circle of card.
Paint a toilet roll tube to make a large red nose.

4 Crystal Ball Real ones are made from crystal glass or moulded perspex and are expensive. Instead, you could glue lots of glitter to the outside of a small goldfish bowl or use an ordinary light bulb in a stand made from a toilet roll tube.

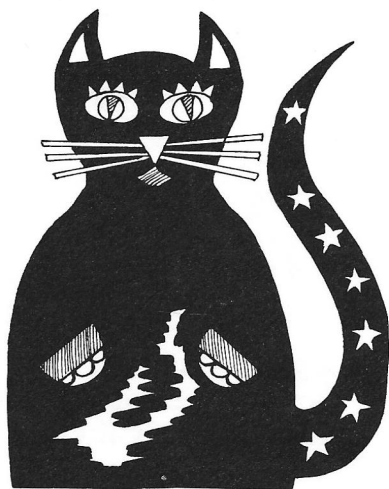
Light some candles too.



5 Black cat

You need:

black felt material
odd cuttings of coloured
felt
glue
paper
needle and cotton
scissors
pins
chalk
scraps of material (old
tights etc) for stuffing



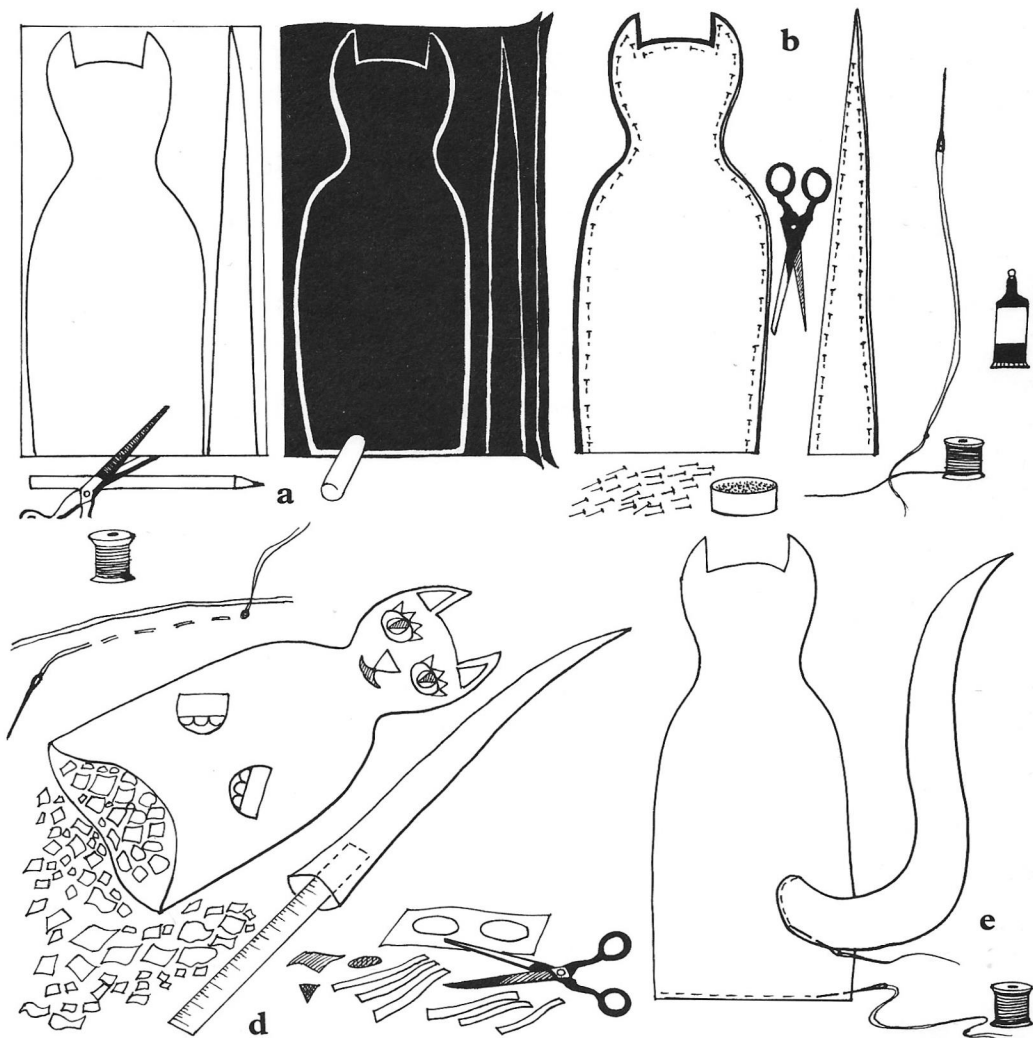
a Draw a simple pattern on paper. Cut out the head and body and then the tail. Fold the black felt in two, lay the pattern on top and draw round the edges with chalk. Cut out the shapes.

b Pin the edges of the head and body together, but leave the bottom open. Do the same for the tail. Following the line of the pins, sew the edges together using a double thread. If you really cannot sew you could glue the edges together instead.

c Turn both shapes inside out and ask your mother to iron them for you.

d Cut out the eyes, mouth, paws, ears and whiskers from other coloured felt and glue them on. Stuff your cat with the material scraps, making sure they go right up into the ears. Stuff the tail with the help of a stick or ruler so that you can reach the end.

e Fold over the material at the open end of the body and sew it up. Then sew the tail on the cat and glue on the other features.



Of course this is no ordinary cat but a 'familiar' sent by the Devil himself to lend a helping hand.

Palmistry

Take a look at the palm of your hand. Did you know that the lines you can see can show the type of person you are and what your future has in store? With a little knowledge of the art of palmistry you may be able to persuade your friends to cross your own palm with silver in return for telling them what tomorrow will bring.

The most important lines, found on the right hand, have the following meanings:

Fate Sometimes known as the line of Saturn, it shows that you will be rich and successful

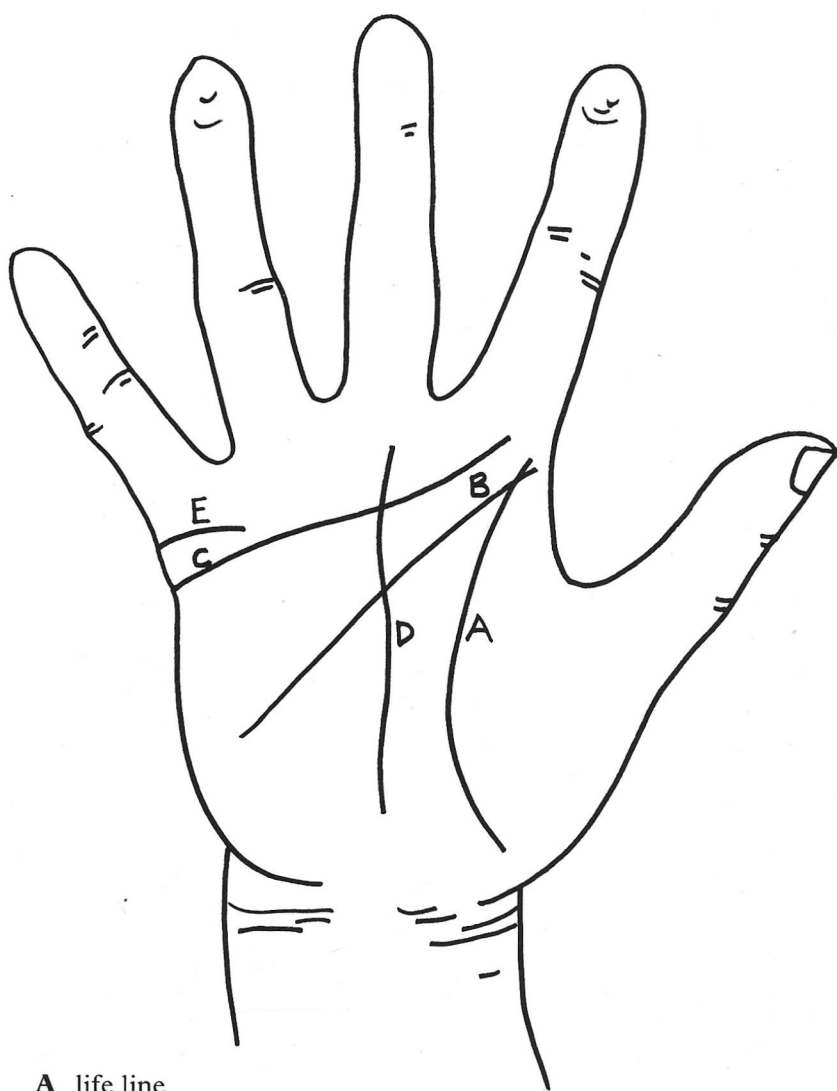
Head If this is strong it means that you are clever and have lots of imagination

Heart A sign of love and kindness

Life Perhaps the most important of all, for if it is long and clear you are to enjoy many healthy years

Marriage If you have one at all you will be able to count up how many children you are to have from the number of branches that lead off from it

Professional hand readers look at other features, such as the shapes and tips of the fingers. If the fingers are widely separated, for example, this shows you are an independent sort of person. If they are short, you may be a little too impatient. But the palm is generally thought to be the most revealing of all, rather like a map of your character.



A life line

B head line

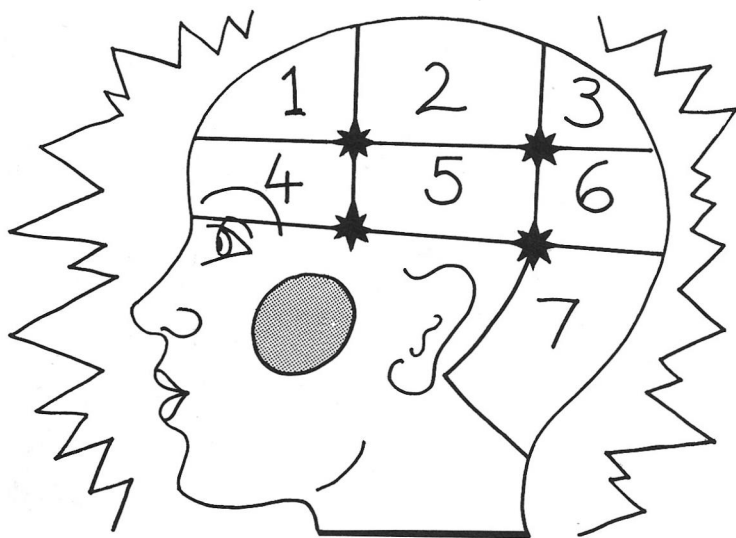
C heart line

D fate line

E marriage line

Bumps on the head

Phrenologists 'read' the bumps on a person's head rather than the lines on their palm. They believe that the shape of the skull is the same as the brain that lies below. Using the diagram as a guide, you can feel your friends' bumps to find out which parts of their mind are strongest, taking up most room on the surface, and which are weakest, without even the slightest bump!



1 your sympathy and understanding

2 your kindness and strength of character

3 your ability for leadership

4 your memory

5 your selfishness

6 your friendship and love

7 your energy

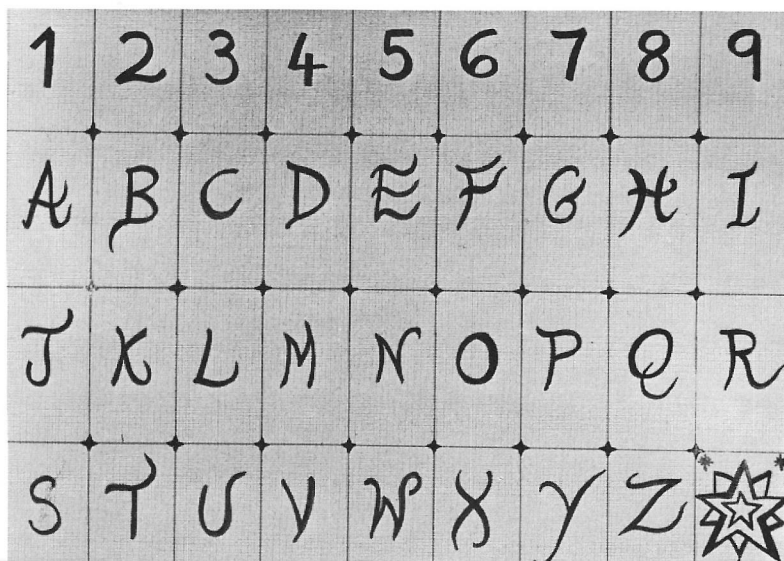
Lucky numbers

You can find your lucky number from your birth date. Suppose it is October 18, 1964. October has the number 10 as it is the tenth month. Write the date as separate numbers. $1 + 8 + 1 + 0 + 1 + 9 + 6 + 4 = 30$. $3 + 0 = 3$, which is your lucky number.

Make a numberscope to find things out about yourself. Write these numbers and the letters of the alphabet on a card like this:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

Now write down your name. Underneath it write the number that appears in the same column as each letter. Add all the numbers as if you are finding your lucky number. Now see how you score: **1** is a born leader, **2** a gentle soul, **3** artistic, **4** hard-working, **5** adventurous, **6** kind to others, **7** a lone wolf, **8** businesslike, **9** very special. Now see how your friends score.



Tea-leaf reading

Most people now prefer tea bags to tea-leaves, or at least like to have their tea strained before drinking it. But they do not know what they are missing. With a little practice at reading the shapes that the tea-leaf dredges form in an empty cup, many interesting omens can be revealed. Think how amazed your aunt would be if you took her finished cup of tea and predicted tall dark strangers or safaris into deepest Africa. Just follow this basic code – but never forget what you already know about the other person.

Aeroplane Something good will happen to you. (But if there are other leaves around it, just like clouds, you must take care.)

Anchor This means love if it comes near the top of the cup, or a sea voyage at the bottom.

Cigar You are spending too much money.

Clock Watch out, you may catch a cold.

Dog You have lots of good friends. Look for their initials in other tea-leaf shapes.

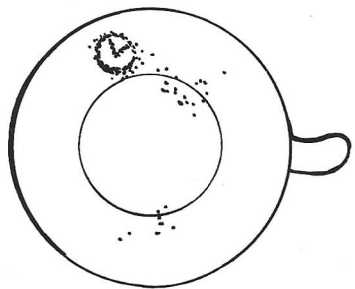
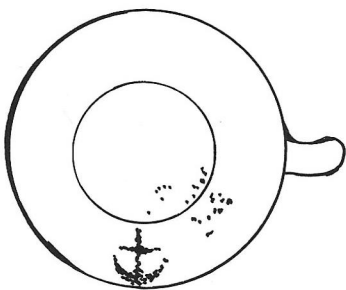
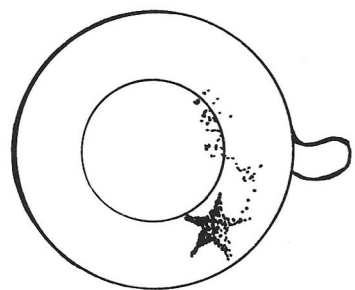
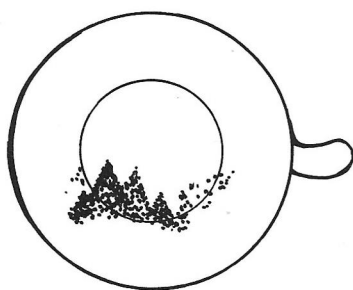
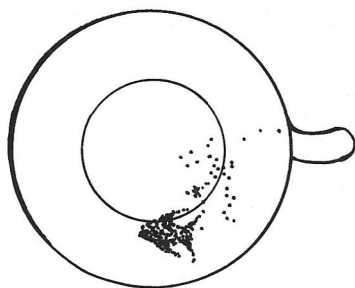
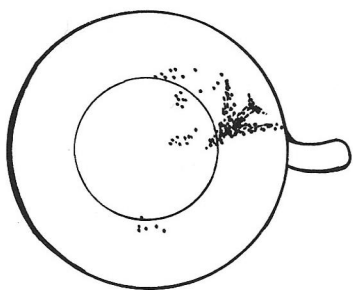
Feather Lazy bones. Work harder.

Fish You will soon hear some good news.

Knife Be careful not to lose your temper.

Mountain A journey lies ahead.

Star This is very lucky, especially near the rim of the cup.



There are many other signs to be found in tea cups, so use your own imagination and have lots of fun.

Signs of the zodiac

Birthdays are more than iced cakes and surprise presents. It is said that the group of stars under which you were born affect both your character and your future. You will be able to cast a simple 'horoscope' for your friends by following this light-hearted guide to their birth signs.

aries the Ram

(March 21–April 20)

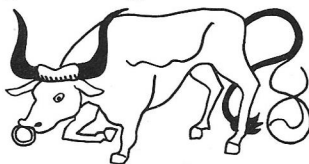
Lots of travels and adventure.
A bit bossy.



taurus the Bull

(April 21–May 20)

You like to make things, but
often get angry like a maddened
bull.



gemini the Twins

(May 21–June 20)

Lots of brains and quite a
chatterbox. Sometimes a bit
too snappy.



cancer the Crab

(June 21–July 21)

Have you fallen in love yet?
You will, lots of times.



leo the Lion

(July 22–August 21)

Fiery, like the king of the
jungle, but a true friend.



virgo the Virgin

(August 22–September 21)

The quiet sort who may one
day be a multi-millionaire.



libra the Scales

(September 22–October 22)

A talented artist may lie within,
so out with brush and palette.



scorpio the Scorpion

(October 23–November 21)

You keep a secret well and
should make a fine magician.



sagittarius the Archer

(November 22–December 20)

Happy-go-lucky, but you are a
bit messy with it.



capricorn the Goat

(December 21–January 19)

An ideal lone round-the-world
yachtsman. Perhaps a bit of a
miser in old age.



aquarius the Watercarrier

(January 20–February 18)

You have lots of ups and downs
but are always ready to listen
to others.



pisces the Fishes

(February 19–March 20)

A gentle person who is kind to
animals. Others sometimes boss
you around.



You could try writing a weekly horoscope for your
friends like those you find in the newspapers, and many
times wiser, perhaps.

Astral tee-shirt

Each sign of the zodiac has its own special colour:

ram: red

bull: blue

twins: yellow

crab: green

lion: gold

virgin: brown

scales: multicoloured

scorpion: crimson

archer: purple

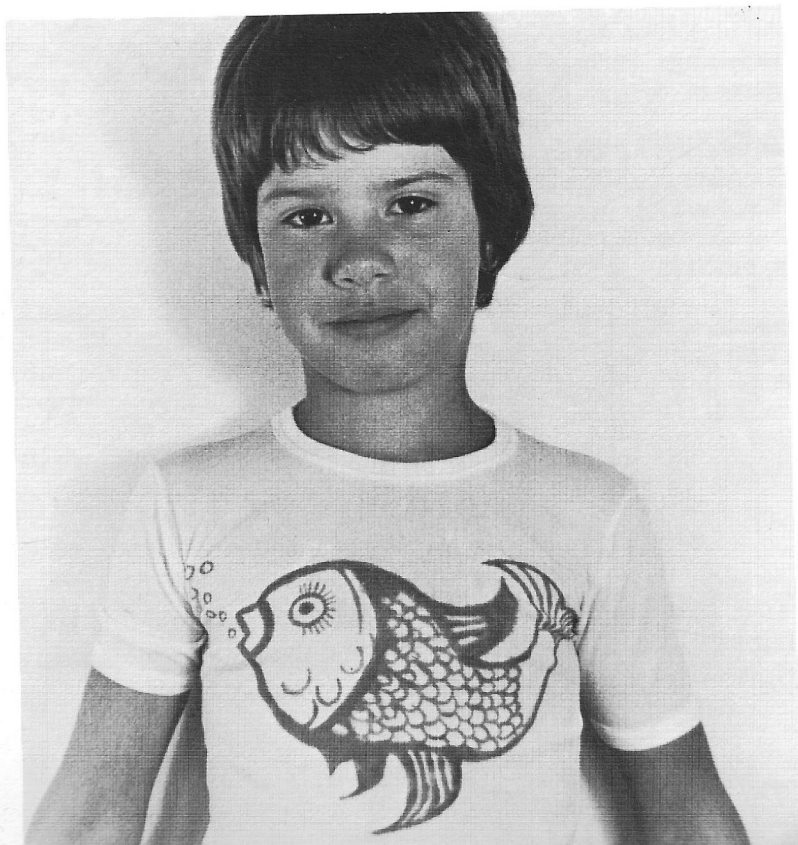
goat: black

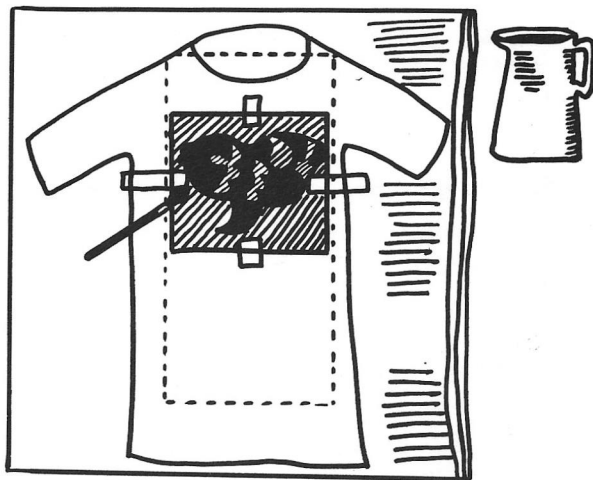
water carrier: navy blue

fishes: mauve

These can be used to print zodiac signs on tee-shirts.
You need:

cold dye and a thickening powder,
tee-shirt, jug, scissors, a thickish
paint brush, adhesive tape, stencil
paper or thin card, salt.





1 Draw a simple and bold zodiac sign on the stencil paper and cut it out. Do not cut through the stencil frame. The areas you decide to cut out will be the colour areas on the shirt.

2 Put down plenty of newspaper and lay out the tee-shirt on a table. Put some newspaper in between the front and back of the shirt so that the colour will not run. Place the stencil in position and stick it down with tape.

3 Pour the dye and thickener into a jug and add a little salt. Pour in some hot water, stir well and leave it for fifteen minutes.

4 Paint the dye onto the stencil, filling in the cut out areas. Leave it to dry before carefully lifting the stencil from the card. Ask your mother to iron the shirt.

Zodiac tee-shirts make ideal birthday gifts.

A spook hunt

Is your room haunted? Do poltergeists play naughty tricks on you while your back is turned? You can carry out a simple ghost test (preferably at night) to find out.

You need:

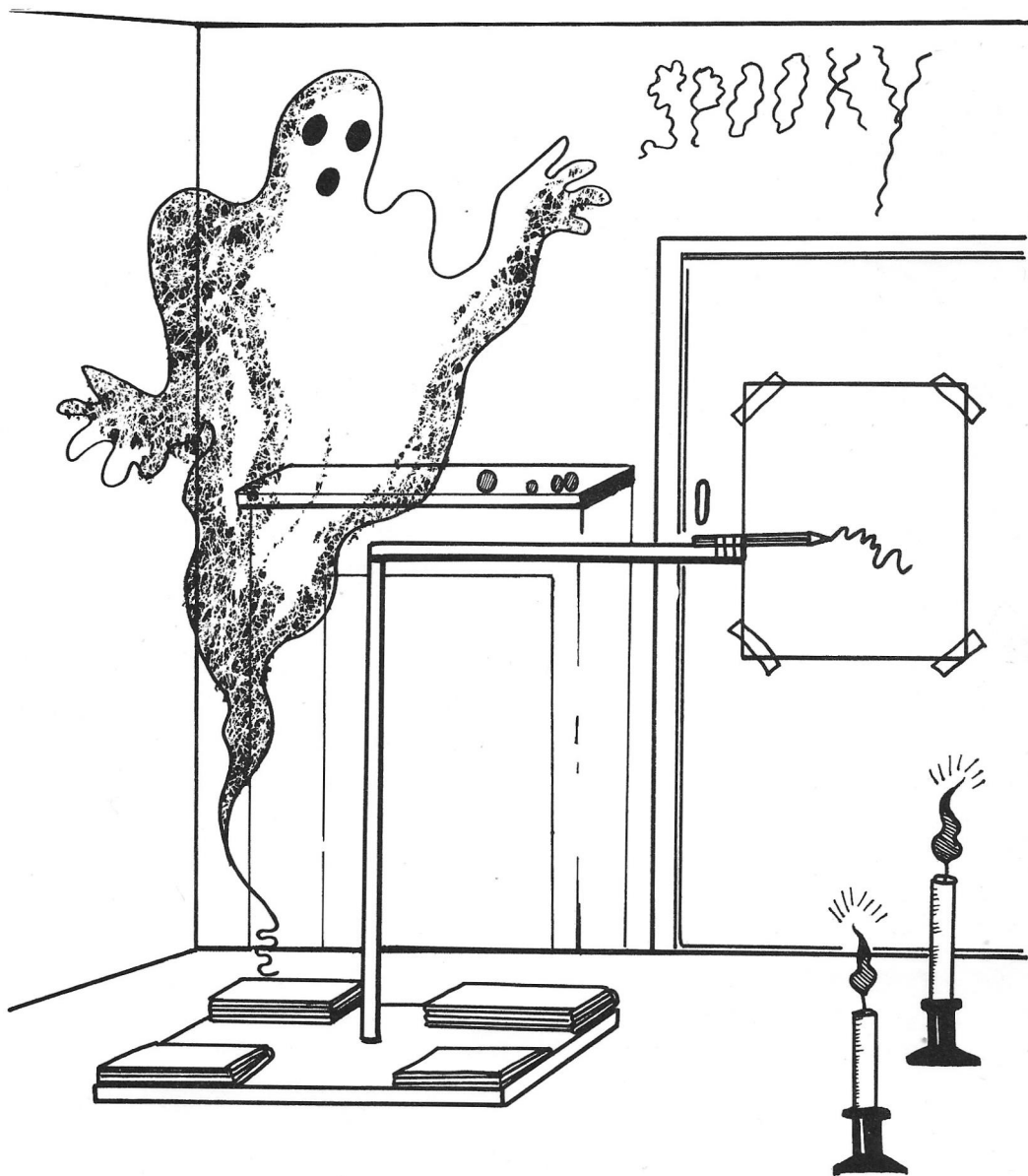
2 thin lengths of wood and also a squarish piece
hammer and nails
sticky tape, paper and a sharp pencil
candles, a penny and a thermometer

1 Nail the two strips of wood together to form an 'L' shape and nail this to the wooden base. Rest some books on the base so that it stands upright.

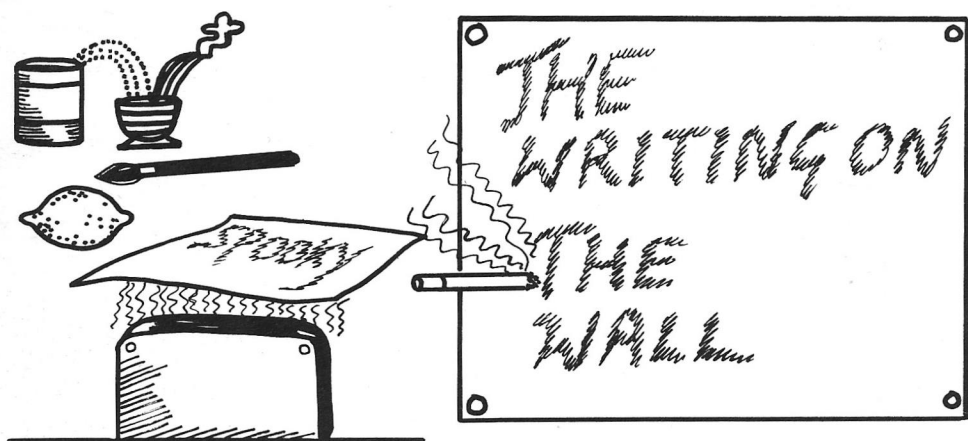
2 Bind the pencil to the end of the arm with sticky tape. Stick some white paper to a cupboard door. Rest the tip of the pencil against the paper.

3 Light two or three candles and place them around the room – you must tiptoe, or else you will disturb the pencil. Place the thermometer where you can read it without moving. Balance two or three coins on their edges on tables or on the mantelpiece.

Now wait for your ghost. Although you may not be able to see him, your equipment certainly will. Watch the pencil 'wigglegraph' to see if there are any vibrations in the room. Keep an eye on the coins and the flicker of the candles. Watch the thermometer closely, as the temperature will fall if there are ghostly visitors. If possible, have a camera and even a tape recorder standing by just in case. If you find that your room is ghost proof, friends can benefit from your detection services.



The writing on the wall



Names or messages that seem to appear from nowhere may have been written by some phantom visitor – at least, that's what you could tell your friends. But there are a few secrets with which you can help guide the invisible hand.

1 Buy a small quantity of potassium nitrate (saltpetre) from the chemist. Be careful not to get any on your face, and wash your hands well after using it. Mix a few crystals with some cold water in an egg cup.

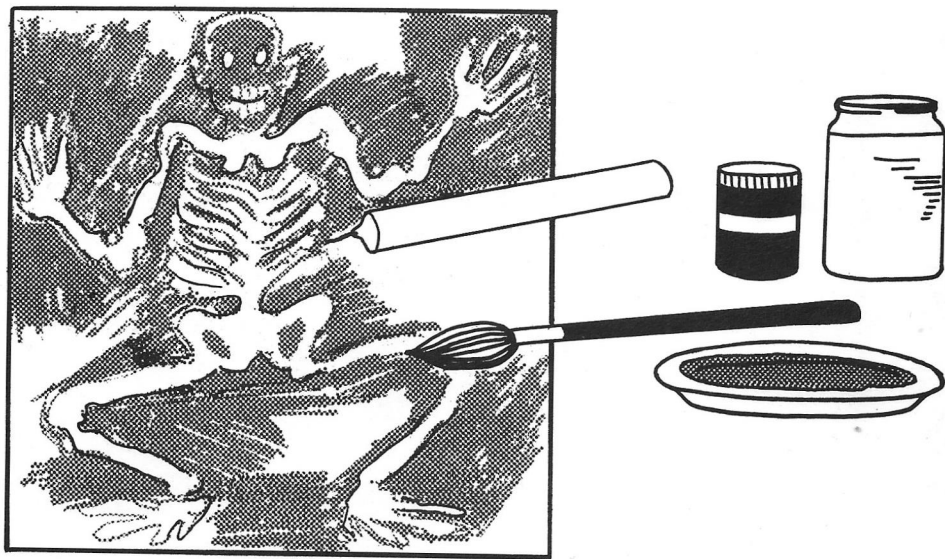
2 Paint your message onto a sheet of paper with a pen or fine brush dipped in the solution. *Do not lift the pen from the paper.* Make sure you remember the exact point where you began your message, as the liquid will soon dry without leaving any trace. Pin the sheet onto an outside wall and wait till dark.

Gather some friends for the 'contact' with the spirits.

You might like to write a special chant to help create the right sort of atmosphere. Then ask an adult to put a lighted cigarette at the point where you began the message (or drawing or magic sign) and watch it burn into life.

An easier form of invisible writing can be done by using pure lemon juice (or a solution of tartaric acid). This will disappear when it dries, but can be brought back again by holding the paper over a source of heat – above an electric toaster, for example.

Again, you could draw a ghostly figure, a skeleton say, on paper using the end of a candle. All you have to do to make the figure visible is paint all over the paper with a weak solution of black water paint. The paint will not stay on the surfaces covered by the candle wax and so will leave a white shape standing against a black background. Very eerie. See page 33 for the full effect.



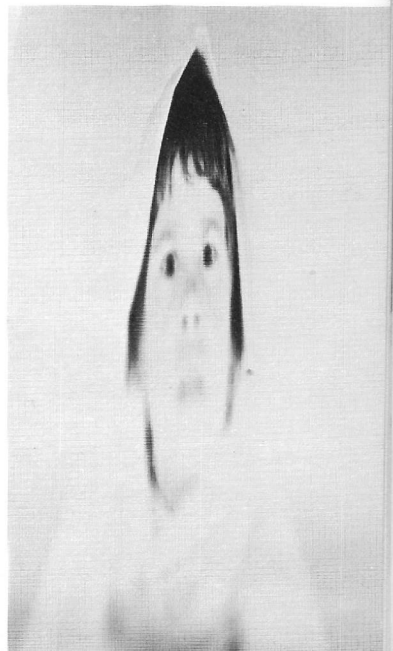
Ghostly photographs

Those of you who are photography fans, or who have a friend who likes to print his own photographs, might like to try making some creepy pictures.

1 Take two photographs, one of a person dressed up in a white sheet and standing against a dark background. The other can be a landscape, such as fields or a forest. Put the two negatives, one on top of the other, into the negative carrier of the enlarger. Make a test strip to get the correct exposure time and then print the photograph. Be careful not to faint with horror when you see the result!

2 To give any photograph a peculiar nightmare look, try switching on the main light in the 'darkroom' for just an instant about three-quarters of the way through development. This is called 'solarisation', and the effect is very strange.

3 Instead of laying the photographic paper flat under the enlarger, bend it into a curve (either way will do). Switch on the enlarger and carry on just as you would for an ordinary print. The picture will look a little as if you had taken it in a fun fair hall of mirrors.



Magic tricks

Every magician, sooner or later, is called upon to perform 'on stage'. You will need to know a few spectacular tricks, guaranteed to thrill even the most disbelieving audience.



Genie in the bottle

Your opening wizardry can be combined with a little professional patter, just to tell your audience how you will call upon the services of your own genie to assist you (since you cannot afford a human assistant). A few hours before the curtain rises, put an empty bottle into the refrigerator. Take it out at the last possible moment and put it on a table in front of your audience. Put a small coin over the mouth of the bottle and hold the sides quite tightly in your hands. As the heat from your hands expands the air in the bottle, the coin will begin to jump around on top, just as if your genie were struggling to get out.

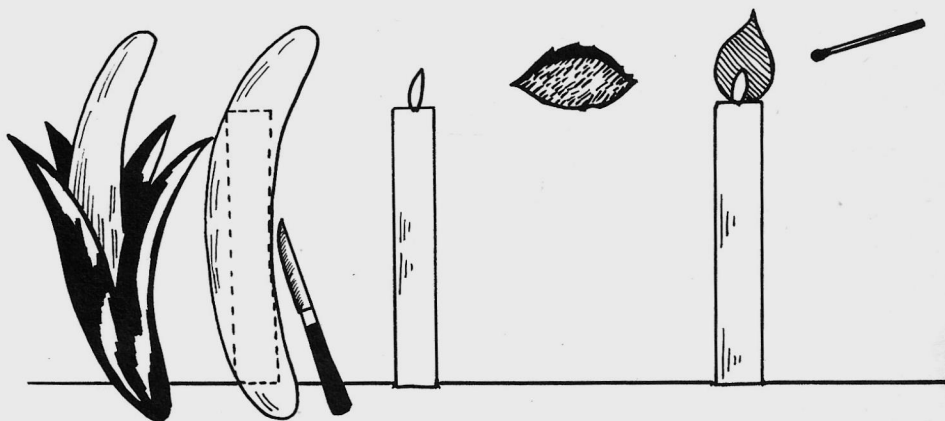
Candle snack

Have you ever tried to eat a lighted candle? They taste very good, provided you know the secret.

1 Peel a banana and trim off the curved parts and the ends with a knife so that it looks the same shape as a candle. Place a sliver of almond or Brazil nut in the end to make the 'wick'.

2 Light the piece of nut with a match and then just bite off the lighted end and *immediately close your mouth*.

The flame burns because of the oil in the nut and is then put out as soon as your mouth closes.



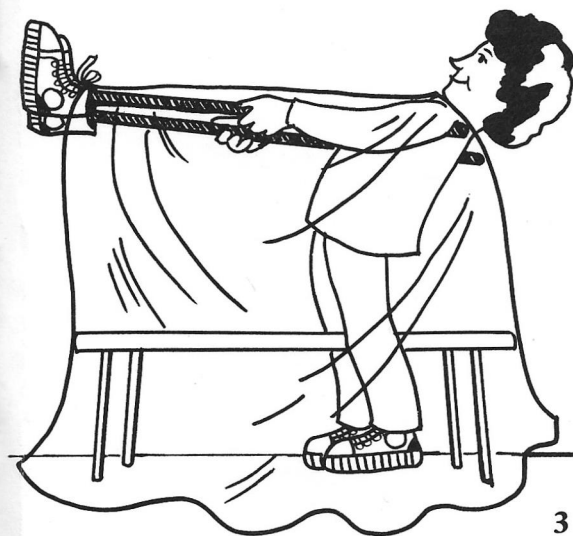
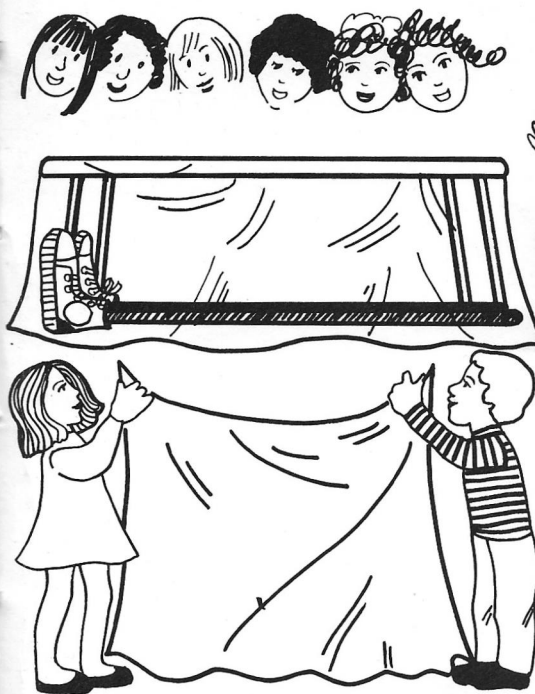
Human hovercraft

Some people claim to be able to command objects, and even bodies, to float in the air without any support. But you will need three friends to help you, as well as two long sticks, two pairs of white Plimsolls, a bench, and a large white sheet.

1 One of your friends should already be sitting in the audience, wearing white Plimsolls, ready to volunteer when you ask for a 'victim.' The two other helpers should be on stage. The sheet should be draped over the bench. The two sticks, with the two other Plimsolls on the ends, should be hidden under the sheet.

2 When your volunteer walks onto the stage the two helpers should lift up the sheet to form a curtain. The volunteer walks behind it and lays back on the bench. He takes hold of the two sticks and the helpers lower the sheet over him so that only his head, and what appear to be his feet, are sticking out.

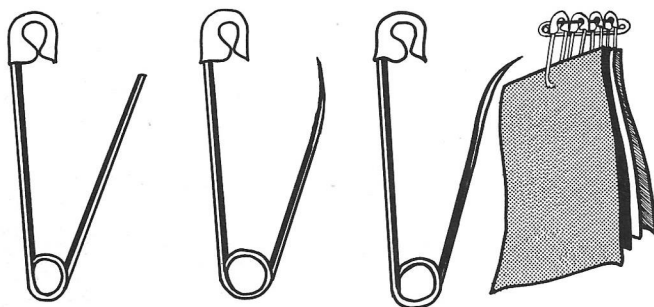
3 Chant of bit of hocus pocus and command your victim to rise from the ground. As he stands up, keeping the sticks level all the time, it will look just as if he were floating.



Mind reading

It is hard to tell what a person is thinking, but this trick might help. You will need: four small squares of coloured cloth (the material should be the same, but each one should be of a different colour); five safety pins; a small iron file; a pair of pliers.

1 The pointed tip of three of the safety pins must be changed very slightly, using the file and pliers. One can be filed flat, the second bent inwards a little, and the third outwards. Pin these and one other safety pin to each of the squares of cloth, and learn which pin went with each different colour. Use the fifth pin to join the other pins together. (This is really just an excuse for using the pins at all.)



After first bragging to your audience about your powers, hand the bunch of cloths to someone. Turn your back and ask the person to un-pin one of the coloured squares and hand it to you so that you cannot possibly see it. Turn to face your audience again, keeping your hands behind your back. By feeling the tip of the pin you will be able to identify the correct colour. But look as if it is a real struggle.

Even something simple like candle painting can give a very ghostly effect (see page 25)



X P H W S L K C E O
A G Z B D M T I U
F N R Q J V Y

YES

NO



Houdini

This trick is named after Harry Houdini, who was the world's greatest expert at escaping from handcuffs, ropes, chains and straight-jackets. Try getting yourself out of this knotty situation.

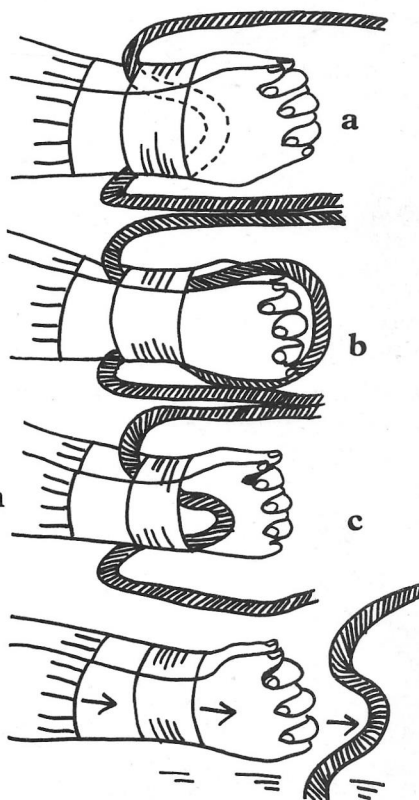
All you will need is a handkerchief and a rope.

1 Ask someone to tie your wrists together with the handkerchief.

2 Now ask them to pass the rope between your arms and hold the ends so that the rope is pulled taut in front of you.

3 Ask someone else to cover your hands with a cloth and announce that you will free yourself in thirty seconds.

4 Wiggle the heels of your hands so that you can catch hold of a loop of rope, **a**. Work this loop right up towards your fingers, **b**. Slip one hand through the loop, **c**. The rope can now be tugged away and you can take your bow as an escapologist!



Try communicating with the spirits using a ouija board (see page 44)

Vanishing act

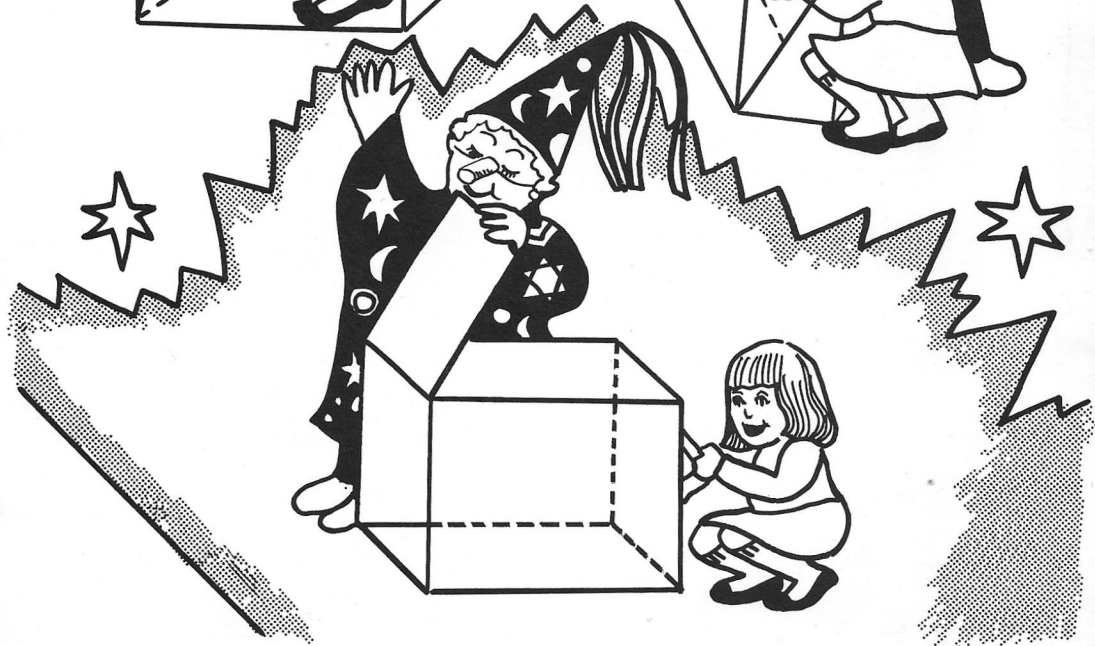
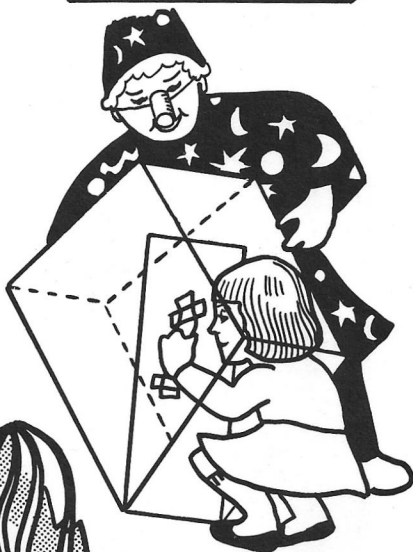
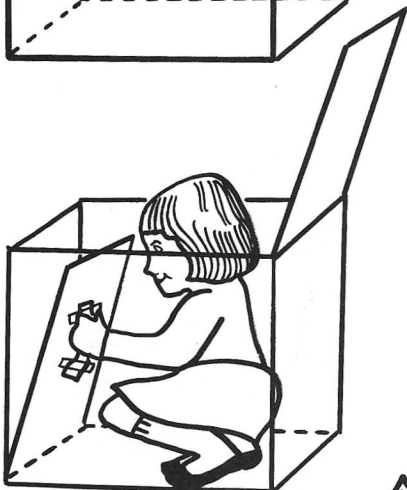
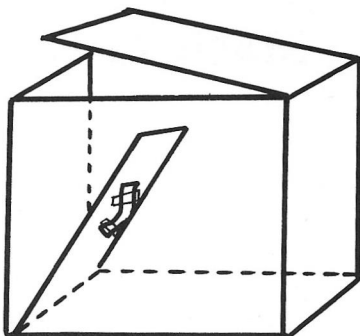
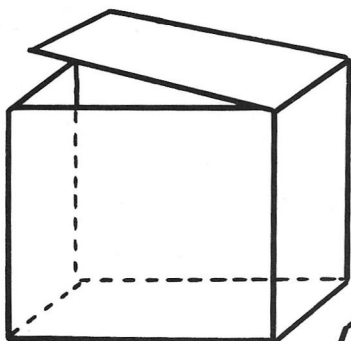
When other people get on your nerves, how much easier it would be if you could just make them disappear for a while. Well you can, if you are a magician. All you need is a large cardboard box, some sticky tape, and scissors.

1 Cut round the bottom of the box on three sides. Fold it up against the front of the box on the inside and make a handle for it out of sticky tape.

2 Lift the lid on the top of the box and ask the tiniest of your friends to climb inside. Put the lid down on top of him.

3 The person inside the box is standing on the floor. With a flourish and an 'Open Sesame', tip the box forward. At the same time your friend can simply pull down the handle and stay hidden behind the box, holding the bottom of the box in place.

Your audience will no doubt gasp in amazement at the sight of the empty box, but you must practise this trick with your friend lots of times before the Big Night.



Magic circle

One of the best places of all for getting into a spell-casting mood is within a magic circle. This will protect you from any spookies that may be wandering about. It is rather like a stepping stone between your ordinary world and the invisible world of the spirits.

If you really want to send chills up your back you could draw your magic circle on the night of the full moon in



a forest, on the beach, or in the grounds of a ruined castle. But your back garden will do just as well, and if the weather is too cold, use your own room with the curtains, windows and door all tightly shut.

1 Draw five pentagrams (five-pointed stars) on some thin card and cut four of them out. You must also draw a triangle with a circle inside and cut that out too. The diagram shows you what shapes these should be. The fifth pentagram should be left on a square piece of card and rolled into a scroll. You will hold this one in your hand when you perform the spell-making ceremony.

2 Make two large circles on the ground, one inside the other, with either chalk or some white cord. Arrange the pentagrams and the triangle round the circle in the way shown in the diagram. Be careful not to put the pentagrams upside down because they will look a bit like the Devil with his horns, and you don't want him turning up.

3 Stand in the circle and turn to face the triangle. This is where the spirit will appear. Get your friends to join you in the circle, holding hands and facing outwards. Start to move round and round and cast this spell:

‘Star light, star bright,
Very first star I have seen tonight.
Wish I may, Wish I might
Have the wish I wish tonight.’

Now everyone should wish hard for a friendly spirit to appear.

Telepathy

How good are you at guessing? You can easily make a special pack of 'Zener' cards that have been designed to test your skills.

You will need: a sheet of card with a fairly shiny surface and not too thin, and a black felt tipped pen.

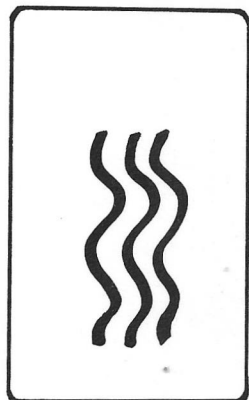
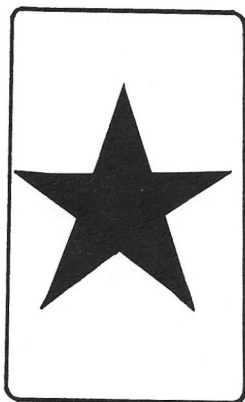
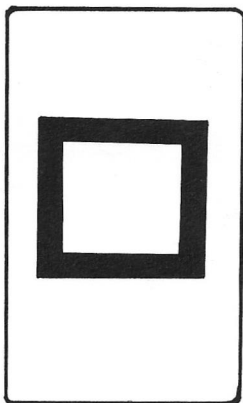
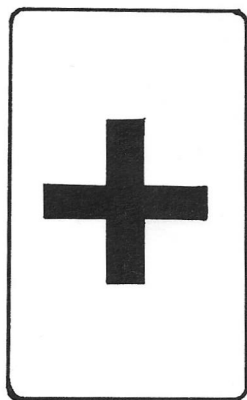
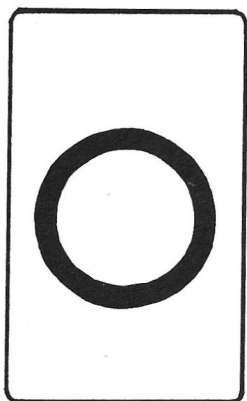
1 Draw twenty-five equal rectangles on the card and cut them out. They should be about the same size as ordinary playing cards. Sort them into five groups of five.

2 Draw one of the symbols shown in the diagram on one group of five, the second symbol on the next group, and so on until you have five cards of each symbol.

3 Shuffle the pack well and put it to one side. Now try and guess the order in which the symbols will appear as you turn them over.

You can also use these cards to test for 'telepathy', or mind reading. Do you think that you have a friend who can make you know which card he is holding in his hand without giving any clues? Ask him to shuffle the cards and then turn them over one by one so that you cannot see them. You could make a proper screen that hangs between the two of you just to prove there is no cheating. You must call out the card you think your friend is looking at, and thinking hard about, but he must say nothing. Ask him to write down the number of correct guesses that you make.

In both these tests you can see whether your guesses are the result of pure chance or more hidden magical powers. In one run of twenty-five cards the average score is five, but if you are more successful than this you must do the test several times just to prove that you do have special powers.

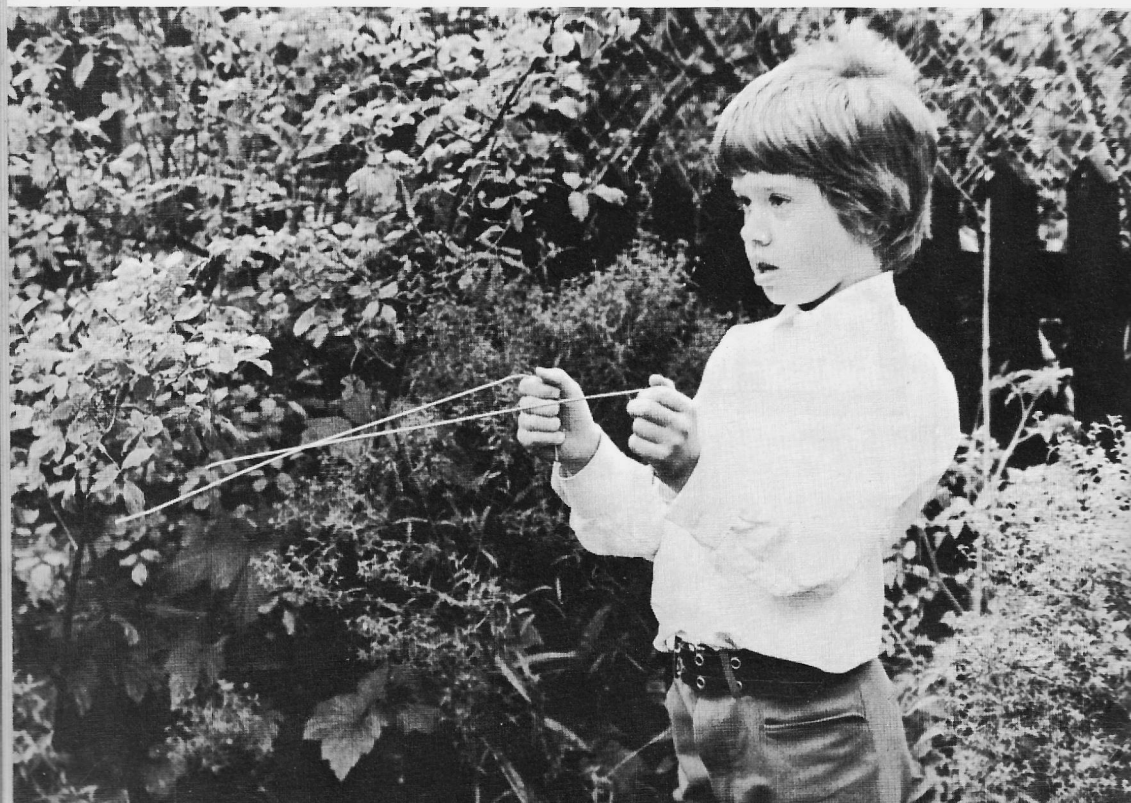


Water dowsing

The art of 'dowsing', or water divining, is centuries old. Even today, despite the masses of scientific knowledge, the skills of the dowser are still in demand. His tools are simple – a forked hazel twig or a whalebone, perhaps – and with them he is able to detect the presence of water or precious metals that lie beneath the surface of the earth. Just how good a dowser are you? Try making a pair of dowsing rods and putting them to the test.

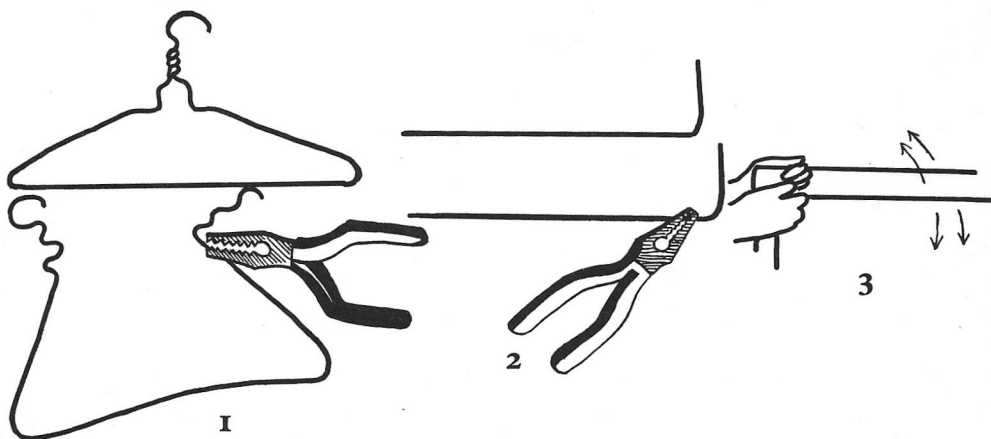
You will need:

a metre of galvanized wire (or two metal coat hangers)
pliers



1 Cut the length of galvanized wire in two. (Or untwist the coathangers, straighten the wire, and cut them to size with the pliers.)

2 Bend one end of each of the lengths so that they form an 'L' shape.



3 Hold, but do not grip, one rod in each hand and point them ahead of you like pistols. Test your dowsing abilities by placing a bowl of water some yards ahead and walk slowly towards it. When you pass over the water the rods should swing together and cross over. If you are successful, you can then make the task more difficult by asking a friend to place a small metal object, like a coin, under the carpet while you hide your eyes. Now try to find the position of the coin using your dowsing rods. After that you should be ready to search for buried treasure.

Ouija board

Are there any spirits in the air waiting to give you a message? They cannot write you a letter or ring you up, but they may be able to get in touch with you by means of a ouija board.

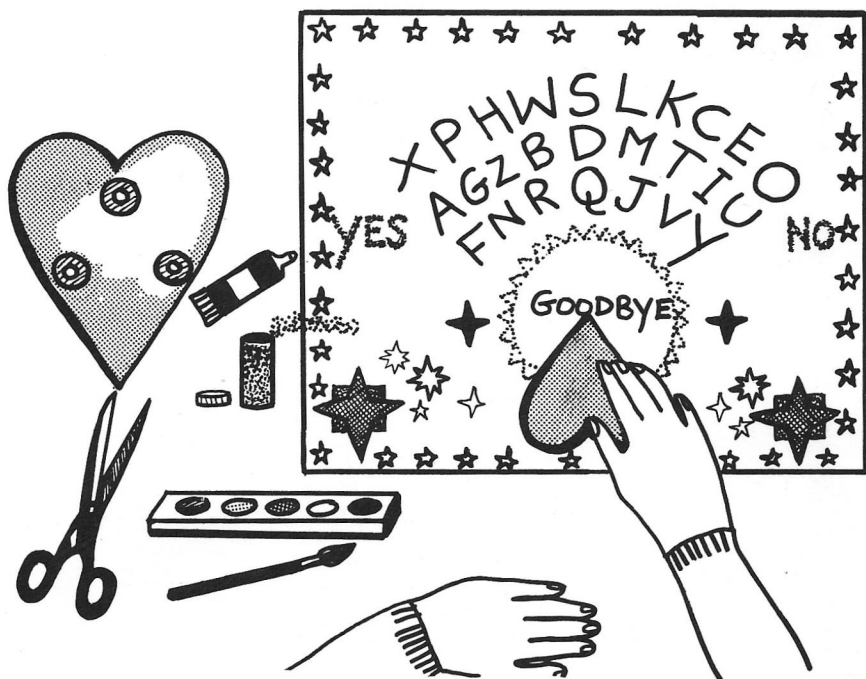
To make one you will need:
thick card (in a bright colour)
a felt tipped pen
glue, glitter, and other decorations
3 corn plasters (the round kind with a hole in the middle)
scissors

1 Write out the letters of the alphabet in rows across the card. The letters do not have to be in the correct order, but make sure you do not write the same letter twice.



2 At opposite ends of the board write Yes and No, and below the letters write Goodbye. You could write these in glue and then sprinkle on the glitter. Or use gummed paper.

3 Cut out a heart-shaped pointer (sometimes called a planchette) from another piece of card or from balsa wood. Stick the three corn plasters on the underneath of the heart so that it will slide across the board easily.



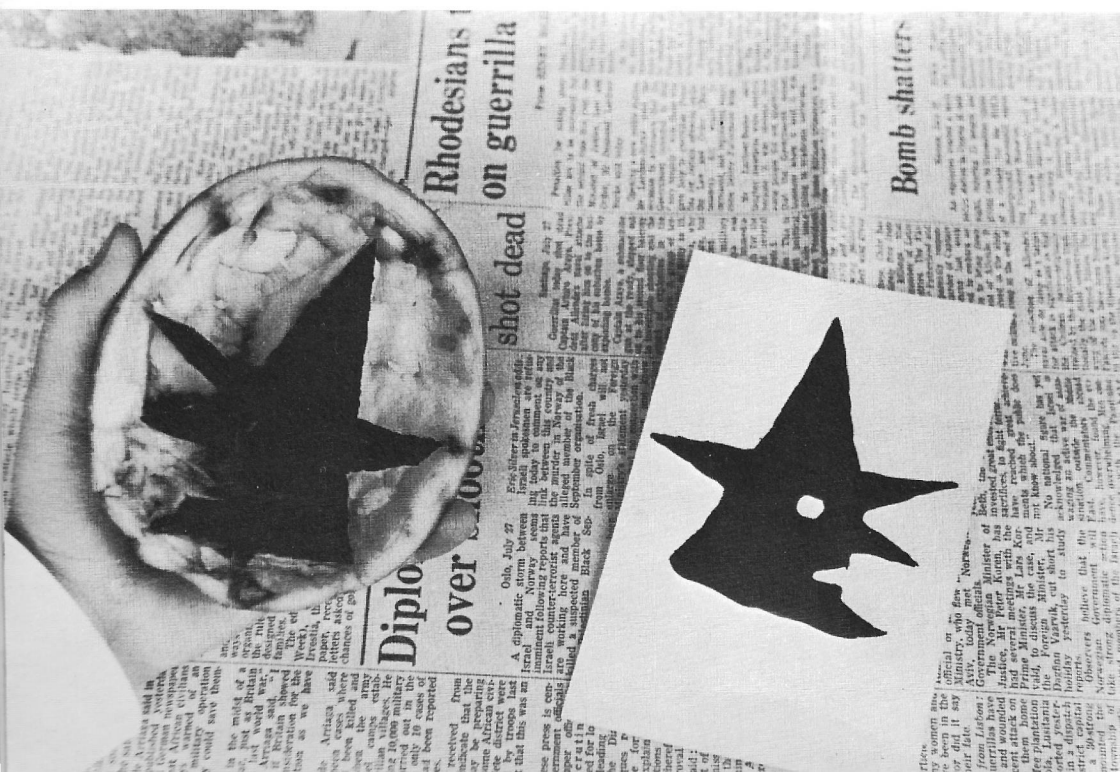
Place the planchette on the board, pointing towards the letters, and rest your hand on it. Now get in the mood and ask if anyone is there. Do they have a message for you? If so, the spirit will answer by guiding your hand – and if it cannot spell correctly, you have only yourself to blame!

All Hallow's Eve

The date: October 31st. The place: lonely and dark, the ruins of an old castle, eerie forests, lonely cross roads. The action: an assembly of witches.

Hallowe'en is the traditional night for the witches to gather for their meeting with the Devil. Such events are celebrated all over the world. In the United States children play Trick or Treat. They call at neighbours' houses to demand a trick or treat, and heaven help those who do not have a small gift of sweets ready for them.

Many traditional customs can still be enjoyed by you and your friends on Hallowe'en. Why not give a small party on the night? You could start by making simple printed invitations to send out in advance.



Invitation cards

Cut a large potato in half and cut round the shape of a witch's hat (or any other design you choose) using a knife. Print your invitations on postcards using black paint. When they are dry, write your friends' addresses and the details of the party on the other side and they are ready to post.



To give your party room a witch-like atmosphere, stick some blue tissue paper over the window. Draw and cut out a night skyline (rooftops, chimneys, TV aerials, trees, church spires, hills and so on) from black paper and stick it on the tissue along the bottom of your window. Add a few cut-out moons, stars, clouds or lightning, and then the silhouette of a witch flying on her broomstick.

Disappearing witches



What better way to get rid of a witch than to eat her! Gingerbread witches will soon be gobbled up at your party, and you do not need a cauldron to cook them in.

But you do need:

8 oz. ordinary flour
pinch of salt
teaspoon ground ginger
4 oz. caster sugar
3 oz. margarine
4 oz. syrup
one egg (beaten)
currants and/or peel

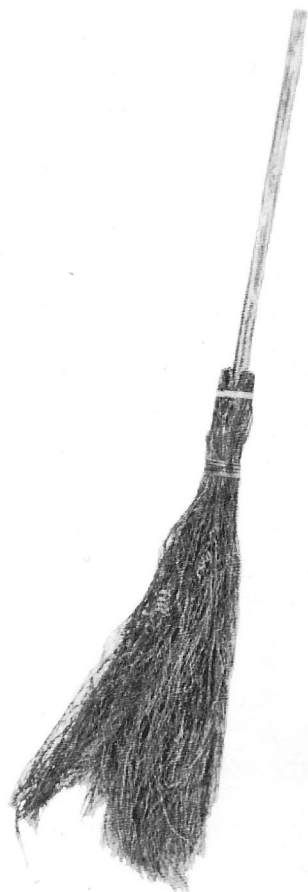
1 Warm the margarine and the syrup in a saucepan on the stove. Pour it into a large bowl.

2 Add all the other ingredients except the currants and mix them well.

3 Flatten out the mixture. Cut it into pieces of three basic shapes: large triangles (witches' bodies), circles (heads), and small triangles (hats). Arrange them together on a greased baking tray. Add the currants and peel for the eyes, mouth, buttons and so on. Bake the witches in a medium hot oven for about 15 minutes. Make as many as you need for your party.

Witch's broomstick

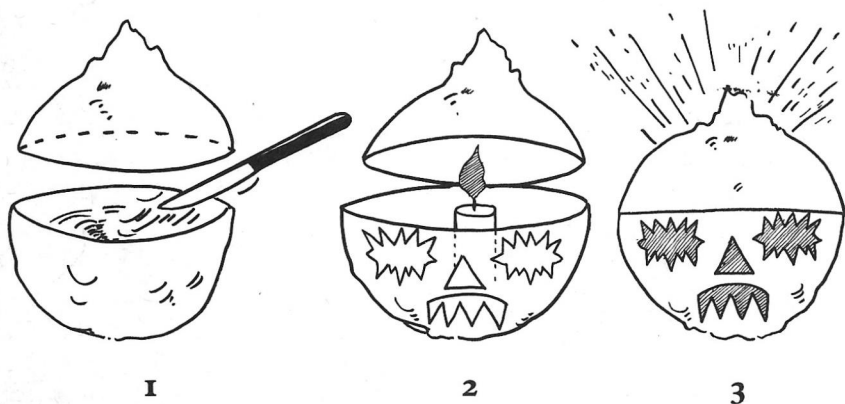
A genuine witch's broomstick or two would give your party extra atmosphere, but you must know your trees, since fully flying models need a handle made from ash, to save the witch from drowning if she should crash land in the sea or river. The brush must be made from birch twigs, because evil spirits are said to lurk in its branches. These must be tied to the handle with a willow branch. And the flying spell? 'Horse and Hattock, Away, Away.' When witches flew off, they used to leave a log in their bed with their nightcap on so that no-one would know they had vanished. So beware of people who say 'I slept like a log', because they might just be witches.



Jack o' Lantern

Why not have a best Jack o' Lantern competition on party night? They are easy to make and look very effective with the lights out.

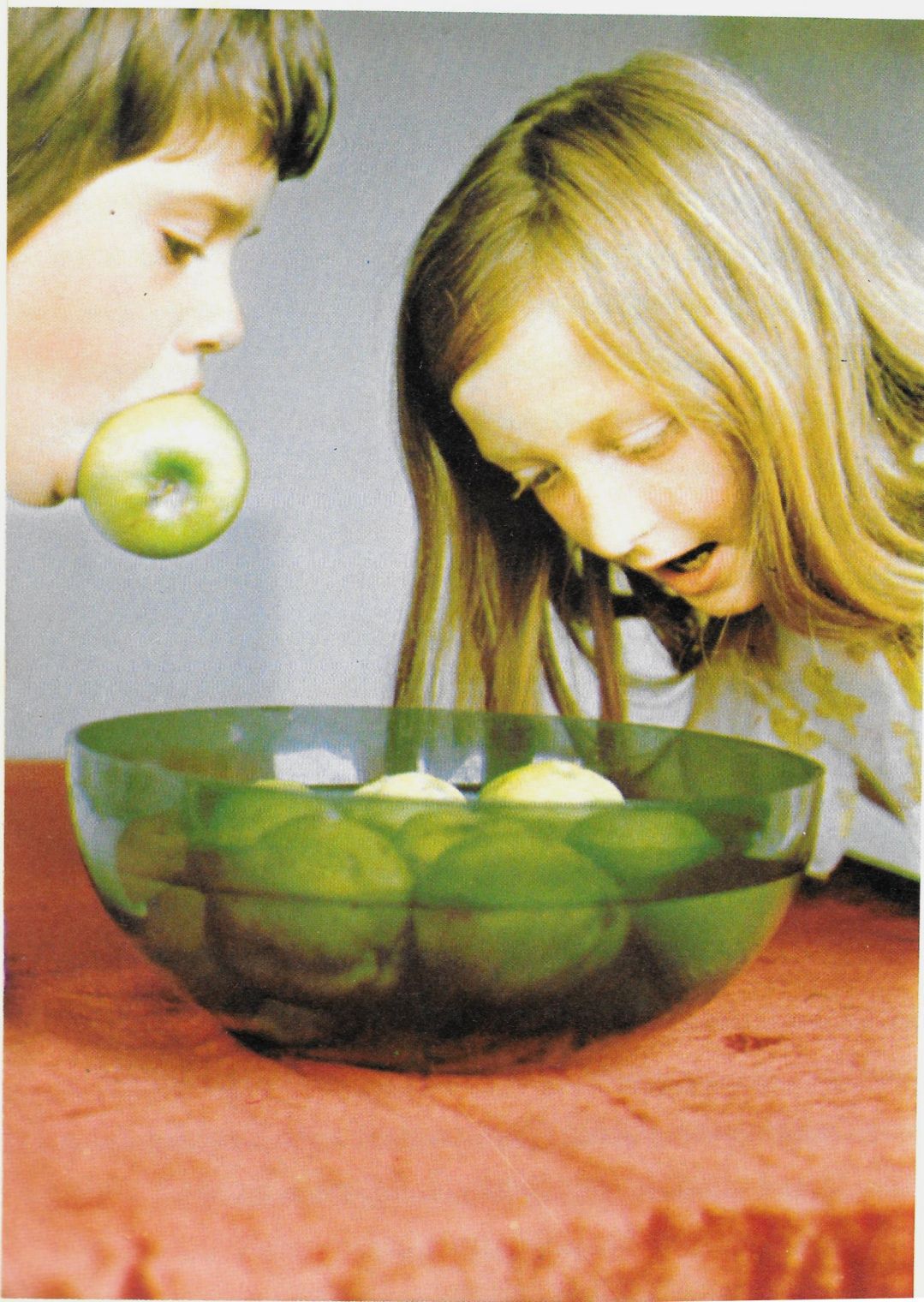
- 1 Cut off the top of a large turnip (or a grapefruit) and scoop out the middle with a spoon and knife.
- 2 Cut out a face, as horrific looking as you can, and put a candle or, better still, a night light inside the hollowed out turnip.
- 3 Light the wick, put the top back on the turnip and the monster you have made could surely scare off any witch.



Cats and witches

Try this Hallowe'en game. One player is picked as chaser and he must touch the others to make them 'bewitched'. The bewitched must then stand still with their arms outstretched until one of the other players releases them with a counter touch. The game ends when the chaser bewitches everyone or one player is caught more than twice.





Love spells

The more romantic at heart should try these Hallowe'en love spells.

Sit in front of a mirror eating an apple by candle light. In the reflection the face of the person you are to marry will appear standing behind you. You must never turn round to look at the person, though. Just finish eating the apple and blow out the candle.



Write out the letters of the alphabet and cut them out. Put them in a bowl and fill it with water. The letters that float to the surface will be the initials or name of the person whom you will marry. Or leave a snail on a plate and look next morning for initials left by its trail.

Apple bobbing

This is another Hallowe'en custom. Just fill a large bowl with water and float a few apples on the surface. Invite your friends to try and pick out an apple, but just to make it difficult for them, first tie their hands behind their backs so that they can use only their mouths. This custom dates back to the times when witches were held underwater at the end of a ducking stool to make them confess.

Fire burn and cauldron bubble

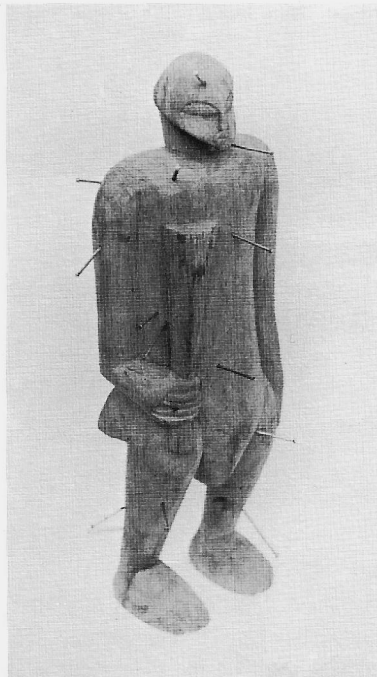
To make the brew that the three witches in Macbeth boiled in their cauldron you will need: a toad, snake venom, a newt, a frog's toe, the scale of a dragon and a wolf's tooth. If that sounds a bit too much toil and trouble there are other less nasty black magic spells that you can try. But don't take them too seriously.

Witches used to make wax or wooden dolls of their enemies and stick pins in as a spell to hurt them. Has your teacher, or a friend, made you a little angry lately? Here's what a witch with a sense of humour might do.

You need:

- a large potato
- a few carrots (with the leaves still on)
- 2 mushrooms
- some orange peel
- 2 broad beans
- 4 matches
- a short length of bell wire
- pins and panel pins

1 Wash the potato and pin the tops of the carrots on for the hair. Add the mushrooms for the ears. Pin on the two broad beans for the eyes. Pin on the rest of a carrot for the nose. Add orange peel for the mouth.



2 Twist the bell wire into a pair of spectacles (if needed) and put them on the face. Push the matches into the bottom of the potato so that the figure can stand.

3 Now stick in the panel pins wherever your wicked fancy chooses. They may not have much effect. But it is better to take your bad temper out on a potato any day.



A witch's garden

A garden was important to a witch because she could grow many things that were needed for her potions and other brews.

Witches who practised black magic used many plants that were poisonous. Hemlock, sometimes known as Devil's Oats, and Deadly Nightshade (Bella Donna) were, according to legend, rubbed onto their bodies to make them fly. Mandrake was the most gruesome of all, and frightening instructions went with it. The person who wanted it was first supposed to loosen it from the surrounding soil. A dog was then tied to it and called away, pulling the mandrake from the ground. As it was torn up by the roots the mandrake made a screaming noise which brought death to anyone who heard it. The poor dog would die because he could hardly block his ears with his paws. The hole where the mandrake grew was then filled with bread and some coins to please an earth god. Finally the mandrake was placed in a bowl of milk, wrapped in a white silk cloth, and stored in a wooden chest.

Witches were also careful about arranging their garden. Ask your parents if you can bewitch a corner of your garden at home. The centre piece should really be a tree around which you should plant a circle of white flowers – snowdrops or daisies, perhaps – in honour of the moon goddess. You must also have plenty of colour in the garden at all times in order to raise power, so try and plant for all year round blooms. And to keep the witch hunters at bay, you must plant rows of red flowers as your soldiers, such as nasturtiums or red hot pokers.



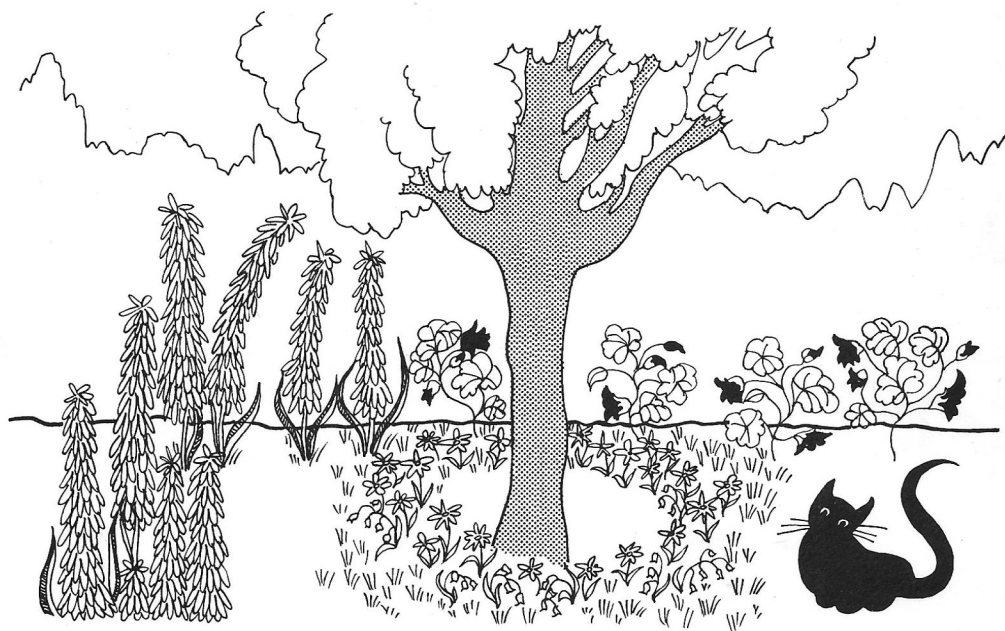
hemlock



deadly nightshade



mandrake



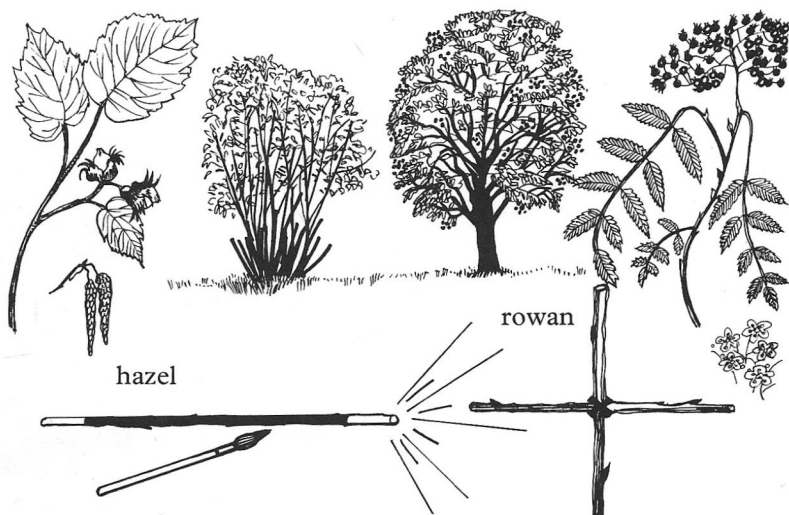
White magic

Rowan cross

Witches could have any tree in their garden except a rowan, as this was used as a protection from their 'Evil Eye'. As the saying goes: 'Warlocks, witches cannot work where there is rowan tree wood.' If you feel that a friend of yours might have a little of the witch in her, make a cross by binding together with string two short twigs of rowan and touch her with it. If she is really a witch she will be carried off by the Devil!

Magic wand

The hazel tree was also special. If you would like a real magician's wand you must cut off a hazel branch at sunrise to catch the sun's new light and power. Paint the wand black except for the two ends, which should be white.

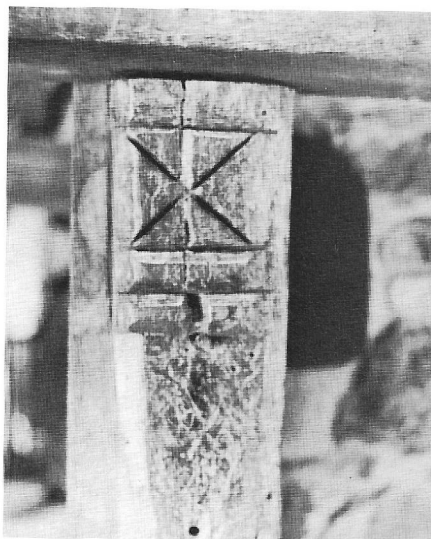


Keeping witches at bay

Years ago, during the times when people used to be afraid of witches, they did everything they could to keep them at bay. The magic sign in the photograph was found carved on the fireplace of an old house.

Keep your eyes open for a stone or pebble with a natural hole in it. If you tie it on a loop of string it will keep the witches away. You could hang it on your bedroom door. But if the string should ever wear out you must tie the new one on before removing the old. Some years ago farmers used to believe that sweat found on their horses in the morning was a sure sign that the witches had been galloping around on them during the night, so they would hang up a witch's stone in the stables to protect them. They did not know that their horses were probably suffering from a chill.

Most people know that an iron horseshoe is supposed to keep you safe. See if you can find one, but do not hang it upside down, or the luck will drain away.



Ye olde magikal remedys



dock leaf



hound's tongue

Did you know that garlic is supposed to keep vampires at bay? It was first found in the left footprint made by the Devil when he was thrown out of paradise. People used to put it in the cot of a new born baby.

But not all plants were used for such gloomy work. If you rub a nettle sting with a dock leaf, for instance, it will get rid of the sting. But you must recite the charm: 'Nettle in, dock in, dock remove the nettle sting.' Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum*) worn under the soles of the feet will stop a dog barking at you – so you had better recommend that one to your postman.

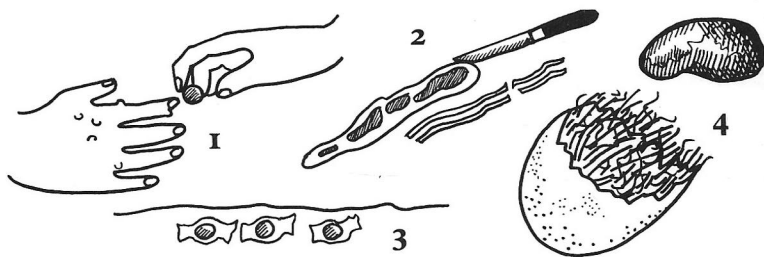
Warts, and how to magic them away

1 Rub half a potato on the wart and bury it in the ground. As it decays, so your wart will go away.

2 Rub the wart with bacon rind. Cut a slit in the bark of an ash tree and put the bacon in the slit. Cast this spell: 'Ashen tree, ashen tree, pray buy these warts off me.' The warts will leave you and reappear as rough blobs on the ash.

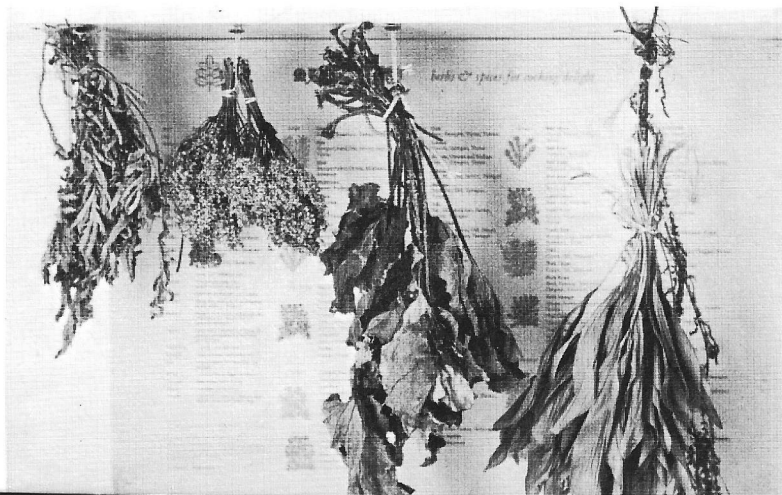
3 Touch each wart with a pea. Wrap each pea separately in paper and bury them. At the same time say: 'As these peas shall rot away, so my warts shall soon decay.'

4 Stuff some horsehair from an old mattress into an eggshell. After a good rub on the wart, throw it away without removing the horsehair from the shell.



Herbs

Herbs are taken as medicine, as well as being used to flavour food. If you visit the countryside, why not collect as many herbs as you can and sew them into little square bags of muslin. Dry them first by hanging them upside down in bunches. Sachets of herbs were also worn around the neck as good luck charms, but to give them a touch of enchantment you must collect them when the moon is waxing (growing larger).



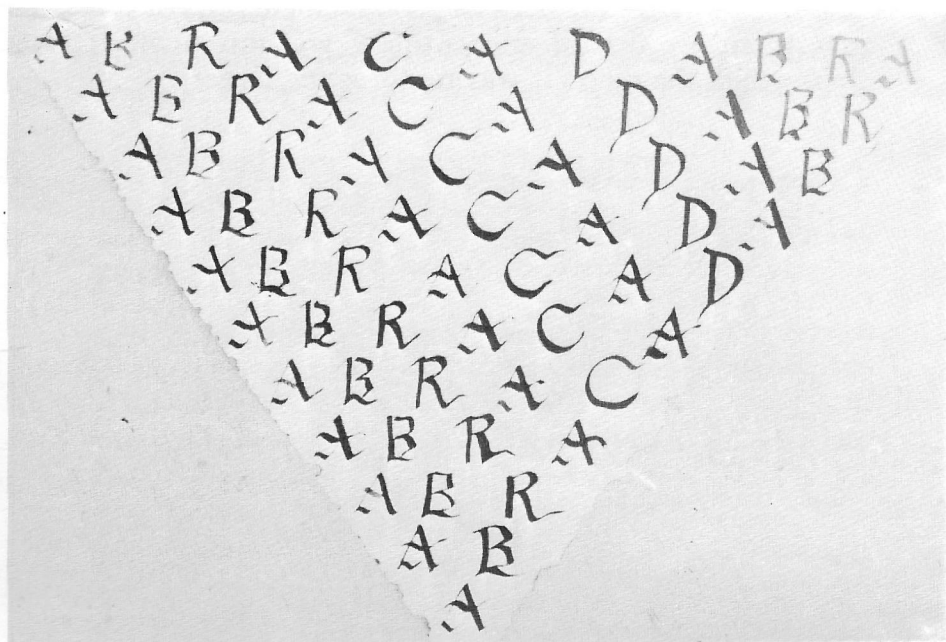
Spells and charms

ABRACADABRA is probably the most famous of all the spells. But to cast the spell properly you must write it out in the form of a triangle standing up on a point, as shown in the diagram.

You could write it out on a piece of thickish paper, using a pen with an italic nib. This will make the writing look a little ancient, especially if you ask an adult to singe the edges of the paper with a lighted cigarette. Roll it up like a scroll and tie it with a piece of red ribbon, sealed with a blob of sealing wax.

For a container you can use the tube from kitchen paper towels. Decorate the tube with some paint and a few gummed stars.

And remember to carry your spell scroll with you on all magical occasions.



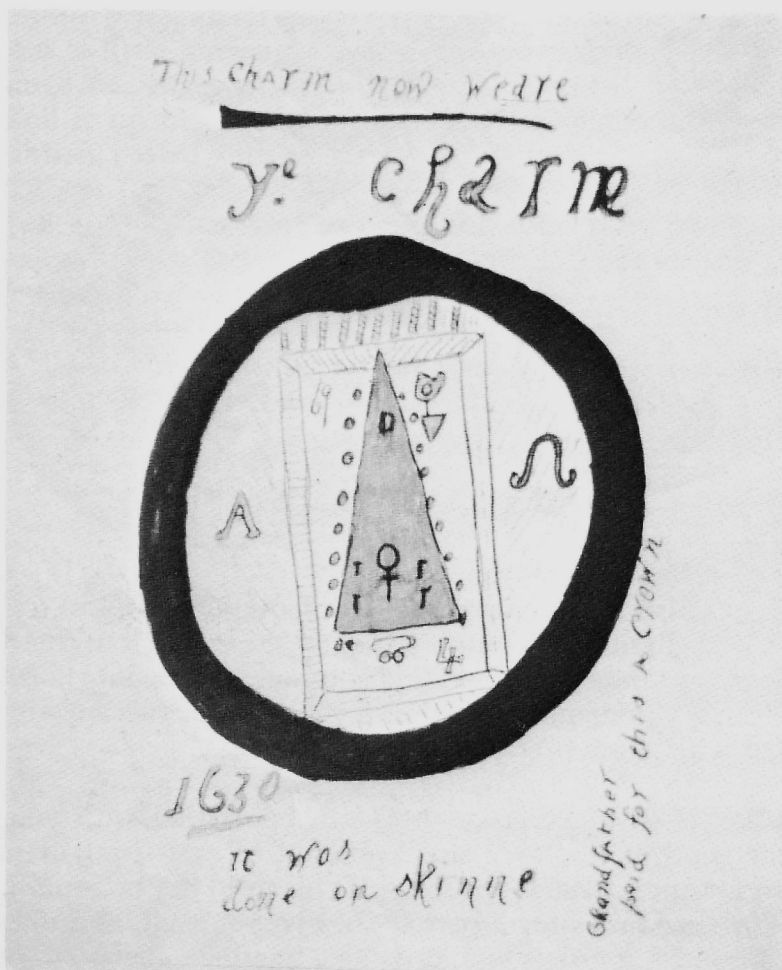


Spells also have sentimental moments. One way to try to keep a faithful friend is to dig up the earth from their footprint, put it in a pot, and sow some marigolds in it. Even if you do have a row with your friend, you are still left with some pretty flowers to admire!

Charms with secret symbols can be carried with you for good luck. Buy a small amount of non-firing clay and shape a medallion from it. This need not be round. The shape may form part of the symbol itself, and two interlocking hearts would make a fine love-charm.

Use any pointed instrument, even a sharpened match, to engrave your design in the clay. Push in some 'jewels' before it hardens. These can be small coloured beads, seeds, small marbles and so on. Make a hole in the top of the charm if you want to wear it round your neck, or make a key ring with it. Leave the clay to harden before you paint it.

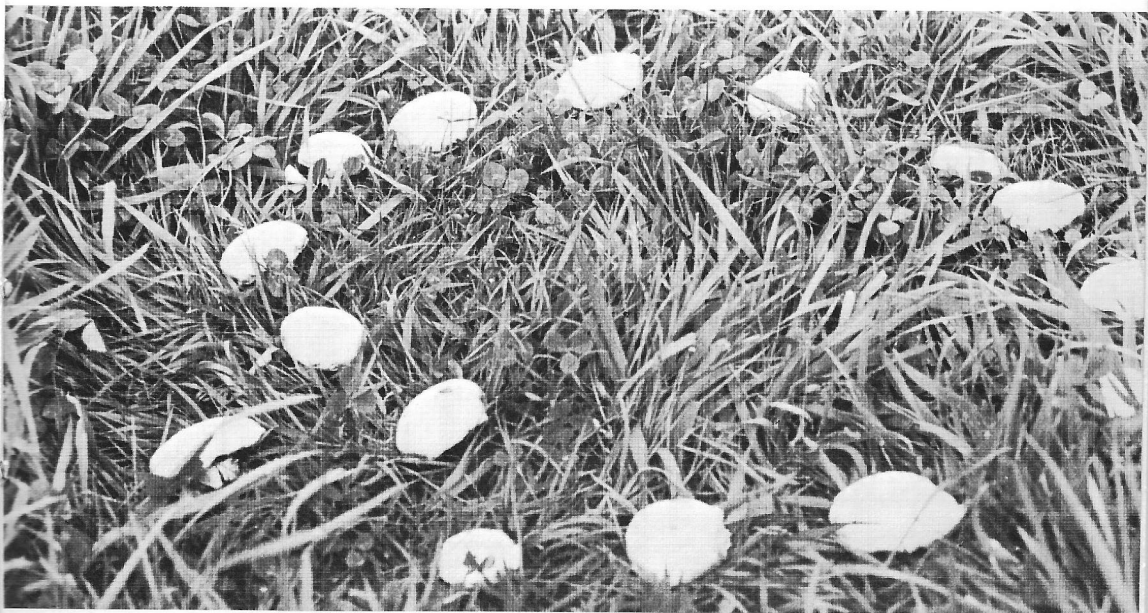
This is a very old charm. It was painted on leather in 1630 and is now in a museum.



Pixie dust and how to find it

The little people, the fairies, goblins, elves, flibbertigibbets and others, are difficult to find. First look for their meeting places, such as a ring of toadstools or just bare soil worn out by their dancing feet. A sudden small hill, with trees on top, may be a fairy hill. Even if you do not believe in them, never fall asleep under a lonely tree on a hillside. Fairies can be very naughty, and many a farmer can tell tales of cream being turned sour or milk pails tipped over by such folk.

When you have found the fairy meeting place, mix a potion to make them visible. Pour some olive oil into a small bottle. Gather up buds of hollyhock, some marigolds, wild thyme, buds of hazel and the grass from the tuft of a fairy throne. Put them into the bottle. Leave them for three days in the sun. Shake them daily.



The fairy world is full of flowers. Here is how you can keep a fairy 'garland' for ever. First make a simple flower press. You will need:

2 wire grills used for baking

a length of wide elastic

or a canvas belt

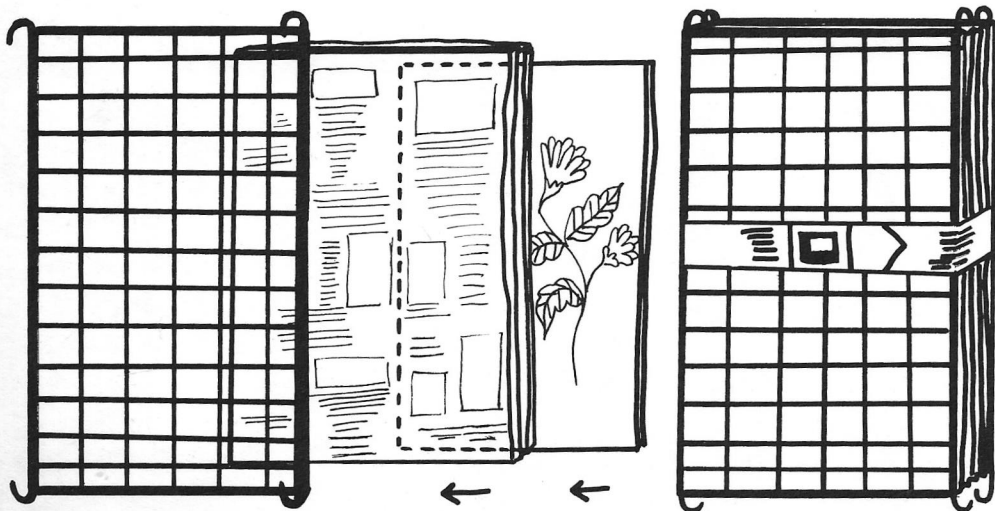
lots of newspaper

sheets of blotting paper

scissors

1 Place one of the baking grills on the table. Place three or four pieces of newspaper on top and then two sheets of blotting paper. Put the flowers you want to press on the blotting paper. Repeat this several times so that you build up a newspaper/blotting paper sandwich. Then put the second baking grill on top.

2 Bind the lot together with the belt. The grill will allow the air to reach your flowers and the blotting paper will soak up their moisture.



Try to collect these fairy flowers.

wood sorrel (fairy bells)
foxglove (fairy cap)
mallow (fairy cheese)
ragwort (fairy horse)
cowslip (fairy cup)

stitchwort
harebell
cow parsley
primroses
celandine

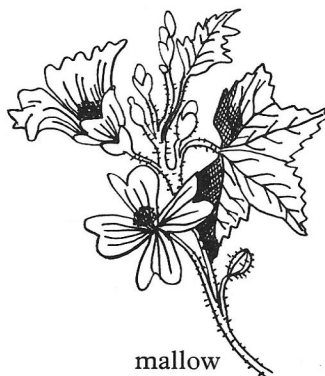
bluebells
violets
eglantine
honeysuckle
periwinkle



harebell



stitchwort



mallow



foxglove



ragwort



wood sorrel



cowslip

All these have their part to play in fairy folklore. When you have pressed the flowers you could arrange them on a large sheet of card and cover them with self-sticking transparent plastic.

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How to Make magic

There is more to magic than magic tricks. First make your own magic wand, then learn how to do mind reading and fortune telling, how to weave spells, brew magic potions, summon spirits and hunt ghosts.

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- | | |
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